

City of Duluth
Commission on Disabilities
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday March 3, 2010

Melissa Booth	P	Durbin Keeney	A	Cindy Stratioti	A
Clara Borrell	E	Lars Kuehnow	E	Beverly Strongitharm	P
Debra Burmeister	A	Francis McGee	P	Karin Swor	P
Roberta Cich	P	Patti Nadeau	P	Glenn Tridgell	P
Claire Jasper	P	Tony Rubin	E	Randall Vogt	E
Sara Junge	P			Bob Grytdahl– staff	P

Guest: Erika Erickson, potential commissioner.

Agenda Approval/Review of Minutes

- Added the Ken Buehler presentation to the Parks and Recreation report. Motion made by Karin Swor for this addition to the agenda. Second by Bev Strongitharm.

Signage Requests

None.

Public Comment or Announcements

None

Correspondence

- The complete streets resolution will be in front of the City Council March 8. Discussion at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. All are encouraged to attend and advocate for accessibility to ensure curb cuts, lessen barriers, etc. There is legislation to support this effort at the state as well, specifically to support roads with state funding.

Parks and Recreation Report

- Patti reported that the annual meeting for the parks and recreation department will be held Wednesday April 2 at the Central Hillside Community Center. Ken Buehler did give his presentation in February on the high speed train and did some focus on accessible bathroom. Still working on funding at the state and federal level including creating a potential transportation hub at the Depot.
- Ken Buehler did not appear at our meeting to make his presentation today. Perhaps we will invite him to the April meeting.

Transportation Task Force

- Melissa reported that the group met to get some consensus on direction. They are going to focus on advocating for an accessible taxi service that is on-demand and competitively priced. They have reached out to North County Independent Living

but have not yet connected on the phone. They are interested in getting information on how other communities have pursued grant funding on this topic.

- There are three (3) groups total working on this same issue in the community (the Commission on Disability, People with Disabilities for Change and North Country). How can we work to become one group to move this forward, especially when pursuing funding?
- The Easter Seals project has given money to many communities, mainly ones much larger than ours, but we'll give it our best.

Emergency Preparedness

- Sara Junge has emailed Sara R. at the WorkForce Center about contacting MSCOD (Minnesota State Commission on Disabilities) for a presentation on the topic for the commission. Waiting to hear back.
- Claire contacted Paul Lee with St. Louis County and shared that his group coordinates with the City of Duluth and the Red Cross and states that it is a challenge to address preparation needs for the disability community. They review their plans on a regular basis.
- Karin shared that the Red Cross gave a short presentation on the topic at her community club meeting recently. Would we be interested in a presentation?
- Bob: Could the commission help distribute the information the Red Cross has prepared for people with disabilities?
- The Center for Independent Living in the area offers classes to help individuals make their own individual plans and resources such as codeready.gov are also available.
- Discussion: Let's wait for the follow-up on a presentation by MSCOD, and if they can't do it, pursue the Red Cross.

Strategic Planning

- We do not have a date yet for presenting the year-end report to the city council.
- Commissioners reviewed the report.
- Goals for 2010:
 - Ensure that people with disabilities are represented on various city planning bodies.
 - Ensure the universal accessibility of pedestrian pathways throughout the city.
 - Encourage the universal accessibility of city buildings, facilities, programs and services.
 - Promote the awareness of laws and regulations relating to accessible parking, housing, employment and transportation for people with disabilities.
 - Provide education and advocacy related to issues of importance to people with disabilities.

Fran McGee made a motion to approve these goals for 2010. All seconded. The motion carried.

- We will create action steps on these goals next meeting and review our mission and vision statement.

Other Business

- Fran shared that DME (durable medical equipment) for those on a state health care program will soon require that your doctor have a registered provider number with CMS. If you have questions, talk to Mary Jo at Midwest Medical.
- Discussed snow removal issue at Evergreen Senior Center in West Duluth. Bob has followed-up with the city and reports that the city has contracted with General Cleaning and they require a two (2) inch minimum snowfall before plowing. Snow is being plowed into accessible parking spaces making it difficult for people to access the center.
- Patti requested an updated list of commissioner contact information. Perhaps we should wait on this until March when new appointments are made.
- Roberta will not be present for the April 7 meeting.

Karin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:32 p.m. and Bev seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Junge
Commission Secretary